

BY REPRESENTATIVE TIM BURNS

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to appoint and convene a task force

3 to evaluate Louisiana's existing laws, programs, and services that address childhood

4 addiction to pornography, and to report its findings and recommendations for

5 additional steps necessary to further address this issue to the Legislature of

6 Louisiana.

7 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has recognized the need for intervention

8 in the lives of children to help provide them with safe, healthy, successful, and productive

9 lives; and

10 WHEREAS, the Internet provides a constant, ever-changing source of information

11 and entertainment, where email, blogs, social networks, and message boards allow for both

12 public and anonymous communication about any topic; and

13 WHEREAS, according to statistics published by Family Safe Media, in 2006, there

14 were over four million pornographic websites, which is twelve percent of the total number

15 of websites available on the Internet; and

16 WHEREAS, approximately twenty-five percent of daily search engine requests

17 involve searches for pornographic material, over forty-two percent of Internet users are

18 viewing pornographic material, and thirty-four percent of Internet users have received

19 unwanted exposure to sexual material through the Internet; and

1 WHEREAS, the average child sees his first pornographic image at the age of eleven,
2 and according to researchers, about ninety percent of children between the ages of eight and
3 sixteen have viewed pornography; and

4 WHEREAS, children with significant exposure to sexuality in the media were shown
5 to be significantly more likely to have had intercourse at ages fourteen to sixteen, and such
6 exposure has been shown to lead to physical sexuality, an increase in the spread of sexual
7 diseases, and an increase of unwanted pregnancies by young children; and

8 WHEREAS, neurological studies, including brain scans, of children who have
9 become addicted to Internet pornography has revealed that the physiological changes in the
10 brain of a pornography addict closely resemble those who are addicted to alcohol and drugs,
11 and that this addiction has an especially deep impact on children between the ages of eight
12 and twelve whose brains are still developing; and

13 WHEREAS, a study published in *The Journal of Sex Research* found that children
14 under the age of fourteen years who are habitually exposed to pornographic material have
15 an increased likelihood of becoming sexual predators, especially rapists; and among child
16 molesters, research found that fifty-three percent used pornography as a prelude to their
17 molestation; and

18 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has recognized the devastating impact of
19 childhood addiction to pornography and has recognized the important need to evaluate
20 Louisiana's current ability to address this issue and to revise current measures and implement
21 new measures to properly address this growing issue; and

22 WHEREAS, in conducting this evaluation, it is necessary that the Louisiana State
23 Law Institute appoint and convene a task force composed of representatives of each of the
24 following: the Department of Children and Family Services; the Children's Cabinet; the
25 Governor's Advisory Board of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Louisiana
26 Commission on Addictive Disorders; the Department of Education; the Department of
27 Health and Hospitals, office of behavioral health; the Louisiana Information Technology
28 Board; the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission; the Children's Code
29 Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute; the Criminal Code Committee of the

1 Louisiana State Law Institute; the Louisiana District Attorneys Association; the Louisiana
2 Public Defender Board; the Louisiana Sheriff's Association; the Department of Public Safety
3 and Corrections, office of juvenile justice; the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and
4 Family; the Louisiana House of Representatives; the Louisiana State Senate; and any other
5 entity concerned with the well-being of children in this state.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7 urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to appoint and convene a task force to
8 evaluate Louisiana's existing laws, programs, and services that address childhood addiction
9 to pornography, and to report its findings and recommendations for additional steps
10 necessary to further address this issue to the Legislature of Louisiana.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute report its
12 findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than January 1, 2013.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
14 Louisiana State Law Institute.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Tim Burns

HCR No. 12

Requests the La. State Law Institute to evaluate La.'s current ability to appoint and convene a task force to evaluate existing laws, programs, and services that address childhood addiction to pornography, and to report its findings and recommendations for additional steps necessary to further address this issue to the legislature prior to Jan. 1, 2003.